

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-103. (Cancelled)

104. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which comprises at least one epitope of Tek protein selected from the group of epitopes consisting of the amino acid sequences:

LMNQHQDPL ("Z1");
NQHQDPLEV ("Z2");
TIGRDFEAL ("Z3");
RMTPKIVDL ("Z5");
KIVDLPHHI ("Z6");
IVDLPDHIEV ("Z7");
GIPRMTPKIV ("Z8");
GMVEKPFNI ("Z9");
NLHPREQYV ("Z11"); and
ILINSLPLV ("Z12"),

said amino acid sequences being those of peptides having at least one of the following activities: (i) binding to HLA-A2 *in vitro* and (ii) stimulating blastogenesis responses *in vitro* on naive lymphocytes of the haplotype HLA-DR1,4, and said polypeptide comprising less than 50% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

105. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one epitope of Tek protein selected from the group of epitopes consisting of

the amino acid sequences:

LMNQHQDPL ("Z1");
NQHQDPLEV ("Z2");
TIGRDFEAL ("Z3");
RMTPKIVDL ("Z5");
KIVDLPHHI ("Z6");
GMVEKPFNI ("Z9");
NLHPREQYV ("Z11"); and
ILINSLPLV ("Z12").

106. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one epitope of Tek protein selected from the group of epitopes consisting of the amino acid sequences:

LMNQHQDPL ("Z1");
NQHQDPLEV ("Z2");
RMTPKIVDL ("Z5");
KIVDLPHHI ("Z6"); and
ILINSLPLV ("Z12").

107. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one epitope of Tek protein selected from the group of epitopes consisting of the amino acid sequences:

LMNQHQDPL ("Z1");
TIGRDFEAL ("Z3"); and
IVDLPDHIEV ("Z7").

108. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 40% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

109. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 30% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

110. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 20% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

111. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence ITIGRDFEALMNQHQPDEV ("Z32").

112. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 111, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 40% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

113. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 111, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 30% of the amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

114. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 111, wherein the polypeptide comprises less than 20% of the

amino acid sequence of native Tek as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

115. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 104, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein further comprising one or more amino acid sequences not characteristic of Tek protein.

116. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 111, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein further comprising one or more amino acid sequences not characteristic of Tek protein.

117. (New) A recombinant DNA construct which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 104.

118. (New) A recombinant DNA construct which comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 111.

119. (New) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 117, which has one or more regulatory sequences for controlling the expression of said polypeptide.

120. (New) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 118, which has one or more regulatory sequences for controlling the expression of said polypeptide.

121. (New) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 117 which is a plasmid.

122. (New) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 118 which is a plasmid.

123. (New) A host cell containing and capable of expressing a nucleic acid according to claim 104.

124. (New) A host cell containing and capable of expressing nucleic acid according to claim 111.

125. (New) A host cell containing a DNA construct according to claim 117.

126. (New) A host cell containing a DNA construct according to claim 118.

127. (New) A recombinant virus vector which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 104.

128. (New) A recombinant virus vector which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide according to claim 111.

129. (New) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 127, which has one or more regulatory sequences for controlling the expression of said polypeptide.

130. (New) A recombinant virus vector according to claim 128, which has one or more regulatory sequences for controlling the expression of said polypeptide.

131. (New) A host cell containing a virus vector according to claim 127.

132. (New) A host cell containing a virus vector according to claim 128.